

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:**

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Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following:

The forward portion of the slide 16 is also retained and guided during its movement by the interrelationship of the barrel 14 and slide 16. In that regard, an aperture 36 is provided through a front end wall of the slide 16 and which is adapted to receive therethrough the forward, muzzle end of the barrel 14. The barrel 14 retains the slide 16 in its assembled and parallel relation to the upper edges 39 of the frame 12 and guide its reciprocal, longitudinal motion therealong which occurs whenever the pistol [[10]] is fired.